

Message Text

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RETURNING TO RELATIONS IN THE SUBCONTINENT, BHUTTO SAID THAT WHEN HE MADE HIS RECENT STATE VISIT TO SRI LANKA, MRS. BANDARANAIKE HAD TOLD HIM THAT INDIRA GHANDI HAD TOLD HER THAT THE PAKS WERE DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN THE SUBCONTINENT. BHUTTO SAID HE HAD TOLD HER THAT JUST THE CONTRARY WAS TRUE, THAT PAKISTAN CURRENTLY WAS A VICTIM OF INDIAN PROPAGANDA TO THIS EFFECT, BUT IN REALITY THE BALL WAS IN THEIR COURT ON ALL OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES. BHUTTO SAID HE HAD TOLD MRS. BANDARANAIKE THAT HE WOULD BE QUOTE WILLING TO STOP OVER IN DELHI ON HIS WAY BACK TO PAKISTAN AND TALK THESE ISSUES OVER WITH INDIRA GHANDI IF THAT WOULD DO ANY GOOD. HE SAID MRS. BANDARANAIKE HAD THOUGHT THIS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND HAD DESPATCHED HER SECRETARY TO DELHI WITH THE MESSAGE. THE REPLY THAT CAME BACK WAS THAT INDIRA WAS NOT INTERESTED. BHUTTO SAID THIS SUMARIZED THE CURRENT SITUATION BUT THAT LATER MRS. GANDHI SEEMED TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS THAT THE REPLY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO BLUNT. SHE HAD EXPLAINED LATER TO MRS. BANDARANAIKE THAT A BHUTTO VISIT AT THAT TIME WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL AS IT WAS A BAD TIME FOR THE VISIT AND THE INDIAN SIDE WAS NOT READY. BHUTTO SAID HE APPRECIATED THE SOFTENING OF THE SECOND MESSAGE, BUT FOUND IT CONFUSING AS THERE WERE REALLY NO NEW ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED OVER AND ABOVE THE OLD PERENNIALS.

7. IN A SIDE COMMENT DURING THE ABOVE DISCUSSION, BHUTTO MADE THE INTERESTING REMARK THAT HE THOUGHT INDIRA GHANDI HAD MADE A FATAL MISTAKE IN POSTPONING ELECTIONS. HE THOUGHT SHE COULD EASILY HAVE WON A MANDATE FOR A NEW TERM AND FOR CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION AT THE SAME TIME, AND THAT THIS WOULD HAVE PUT HER IN A BETTER POSITION FOR THE FUTURE THAN SHE IS NOW IN. THERE WAS A GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSION OF THE "OVER-KILL" WLEMENT IN POLITICS, WITH MCGOVERN QUESTIONING WHETHER THE SOVIETS IN GENERAL ARE NOT ALSO OVER-PLAYING THEIR HAND AGAINST THEIR LONG RANGE INTERESTS. HE MENTIONED EGYPT AND PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA AS EXAMPLES. THE

LATTER BROUGHT UP DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WAS IN FACT BECOMING ISOLATIONIST. MCGOVERN RESPONDED IN SOME DETAIL THAT WAS NOT HIS READING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OR INDEED OF THE CONGRESS ITSELF.

8. MCGOVERN ASKED BHUTTO'S VIEWS AS TO HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MENTIONING BOTH THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND GENEVA. BHUTTO SAID HE HAD SOME REPORTS THAT SYRIA MIGHT BE READY FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. BUT HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE PERMANENT UNLESS AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT COULD BE OBTAINED WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SOMETHING FOR THE PALESTINIANS. HE SAID CLEARLY A PROCESS OF WORKING OUT INTERIM AGREEMENTS, WHICH COULD ONLY BE OBTAINED BY FURTHER REWARD TO ISRAEL, WOULD NOT WORK IN THE END. HE SAID HE SUSPECTED THAT ISRAEL BASICALLY WANTED DELAY BUT HE WONDERED AGAIN WHETHER SYRIA MIGHT GO FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT PROVIDED IN CONTAINED SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWAL AND MADE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

9. AS TIME BEGAN TO RUN OUT BEFORE DINNER, MCGOVERN SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE DEVELOPMENT HE HAD SEEN GOING FORWARD IN PAKISTAN. MCGOVERN EXPLAINED THE NEW AID PHILOSOPHY ON THE HILL, WHICH WAS AIMED MORE AND MORE TOWARDS REACHING THE LESS AFFLUENT MASS OF THE PEOPLE. BHUTTO SAID HE COULD HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THAT AS HE HIMSELF PLACED PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. THERE WAS A GENERALIZED DISCUSSION OF THE POPULATION PROBLEM WHICH WAS USEFUL AS IT GAVE BHUTTO FIRST-HAND FEELING OF THE IMPORTANCE OUR CONGRESS ATTACHES TO THIS ISSUE. HE AND MCGOVERN HAD AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER, IF HANDLED PROPERLY, FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS COULD NOT BE PRESENTED TO POOR PEOPLE IN A MANNER THAT WOULD GAIN VOTES RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. BHUTTO SAID HE THOUGHT THE THINKING OF THE AVERAGE PAKISTANI FAMILY HAD MOVED ON THIS QUESTION TO THE POINT WHERE THAT MIGHT BE PARTIALLY POSSIBLE.

9. BHUTTO EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO MCGOVERN FOR PAST PL-480 SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN. HE SAID HE KNEW OF THE STRONG FEELING IN CONGRESS THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO MAKE COUNTRIES SUCH AS

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PAKISTAN SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD. BHUTTO SAID THEY HAD NOT DONE AS WELL AS THEY COULD HAVE IN THE PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLE OIL, AND THAT HE HAD SEEN TO IT THAT THEY IMPORT MACHINERY TO DO FAR MORE EFFICIENT EXTRACTION. THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION AS TO CURRENT PL-480 NEEDS OF PAKISTAN.

10. MCGOVERN MADE REFERENCE TO THE RECENT ARTICLES IN TIME MAGAZINE ON BHUTTO PERSONALLY AND ON PAKISTAN. BHUTTO REPLIED THAT HE LOOKED UPON THEM AS ABOUT HALF GOOD AND HALF BAD. AS WE MOVED OUT FOR DINNER, MCGOVERN MADE THE POINT THAT THAT WAS A PRETTY FAVORABLE RATION AS FAR AS TIME MAGAZINE WAS CONCERNED.

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